



EVERY TUESDAY

# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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## BY "BALLOON" TO OCEAN DEEPS

### Professor Piccard's Underwater Adventure

SOME weeks ago the C N described how Professor Piccard, the Belgian scientist who once went up ten miles in a balloon, is preparing to descend to ocean depths never before reached by man. Now more details have been revealed about the bathyscaphe, a kind of free underwater balloon, in which he and a companion intend next month, or in October, to go down about two-and-a-half miles off the coast of West Africa.

This bathyscaphe has now been built and assembled, and it is surely one of the queerest vessels ever fashioned. It is a metal sphere in which is a cabin six feet six inches in diameter with portholes made of transparent plastic material. Attached to the sphere are two funnels and a reservoir filled with petrol.

The bathyscaphe will go down by carrying ballast and come up by discarding it. The ballast consists of 3500 pounds of iron shot contained in the two funnels and held in position by an electro-magnet. The total weight of the bathyscaphe when loaded is 40 tons, and this weight will carry it down to the ocean bed—to a cold unknown region of perpetual darkness where dwell strange creatures that could not live near the surface. When the explorers wish to rise they will, by electrical means, throw the iron shot out of the funnels; then the petrol in the reservoir will provide the ascending power. The reservoir, in fact, takes the place of a gas bag in a balloon.

While they are down in the mysterious depths, Professor Piccard and his colleague, Dr Max Cosyns, will observe the fantastic—and perhaps hideous and menacing—forms of life there by means of electric lamps fixed outside the bathyscaphe, and they will take photographs through the portholes, using tiny quartz electric lamps of 3000 candle-power. They will catch fish by means of electro-magnetic harpoons—no resource of science

has been neglected to equip these modern adventurers! Their "balloon" has two propellers to enable it to move about in this dark ocean underworld.

F N R S II, as the bathyscaphe is called (from the words Fondation Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique), will, of course, operate from a parent surface ship which will carry it to the scene of its daring descent. The surface vessel is the 4000-ton Scaldis which is equipped with radar devices—provided by the British Navy—so that it can locate F N R S II when it rises to the surface. When this happens Scaldis will steam to the spot and lift the bathyscaphe with a crane so that the explorers may leave their cabin.

The world will wish these two intrepid scientists the best of good fortune in their strange adventure, and will eagerly await the secrets they will reveal of depths nearly as far below sea level as Mont Blanc is above it.

### NO EXAMS!

No examinations! The dream of schoolchildren may soon become reality in South Africa, for the majority of educational leaders there favour the abolition of examinations and the establishment in their place of a system of grading students in their work during twelve months. Each pupil will have a special card on which various details will be entered. There are, however, still many difficulties to be overcome before the dream comes true.



HAND IN HAND ON THE GLISTENING SAND

## Adrift On Floating Ice

EVERY year as the ice breaks for the summer months on the coasts of Newfoundland the fishermen and seal hunters run risks of being marooned on ice floes. This summer the Newfoundland magazine Atlantic Guardian has recorded the adventure of Chris Cobb, a 50-year-old seal hunter, who set out from his camp on Freaques' Island to help his son and three other men bring in a "tow" of seals.

Ice was breaking into small pans all round him and Cobb found himself in a choppy sea isolated on a pan ten feet wide. Moving at the rate of 1½ miles an hour, the ice pan was heading for treacherous rocks.

Towards dark a plane passed but failed to see him, so he made what preparations he could for a night on board his icy craft. He wrung the water out of his socks to get more warmth; then, as it was too cold to sit

down, he stuck his gaff in the ice, leaned on it, and waited for daylight. The sea was rough, and he feared the ice pan would break up.

Meanwhile, a rescue party had set out. As light came Cobb saw a boat in the distance, and soon afterwards a plane dropped packages of food. Unluckily, none of these fell directly on to his pan of ice, and in his efforts to capture them he lost his gaff.

Without this he would have been helpless, so he took off his overalls, lassoed the gaff with the braces, and fished it back—in time to rescue one of the packages. This contained orange juice (his first food for 45 hours) a suit of warm clothing, and a collapsible boat.

By avoiding any movement which might upset the balance of the pan Cobb managed to balance himself until a rescue ship picked him up—35 hours after his ordeal had begun.

## ROUND THE WORLD IN 73 HOURS!

JULES VERNE wrote a famous story which thrilled our parents in their youth, called Round the World in Eighty Days. Their parents thought the tale "far-fetched" and "over-imaginative."

Less than 75 years after that story was first published a man has flown alone round the world in less than 80 hours—in 73 hours and five minutes to be precise.

He is Captain William P. Odom, an American, and he flew by himself in a Reynolds Bomb-

shell aircraft. He started from Chicago and returned there after flying about 20,000 miles via Newfoundland, Paris, Cairo, Karachi, Calcutta, Tokyo, and Alaska. He accomplished his great feat in spite of the head winds he met between Alaska and the American border, which forced him to land for fuel.

The previous record for a one-man flight was made by Mr Wiley Post, who in 1933 flew round the world in nearly 187 hours, although the route he chose was shorter by 4504 miles.

## Bottle Imp

### A JUMPING TOY OF LONG AGO

IN long-ago days before the C N began its history, children might have been given a bottle imp to play with. In a glass bottle full of water and sealed at the top with a rubber cap floated a little figure of an imp made of coloured glass. By varying with the finger the pressure on the rubber cap the imp could be made to jump up and down.

The explanation is that the imp's glass head contained a bubble of air, and the figure was hollow, its legs and tail being open at their ends, so that when pressure was applied to the rubber cap the air in the hollow head was compressed, and therefore water entered the rest of the imp through tail and legs. So the imp jumped, and when pressure relaxed it jumped again.

This is all in accordance with the Laws of Gases which were framed by the great Robert Boyle, of whom it is engraved on his tomb that he was "The Father of English Chemistry and Uncle of the Earl of Cork." So he was, though he was very interested in gases and by his Laws is often remembered. But from some drawings recently found it is clear that he knew that something like the bottle imp had been known in Italy.

## A 2½-POUND TOOTH

### Giants in Nature's Refrigerator

AT Leighton Buzzard, in Bedfordshire, a man fishing in a flooded and disused sandpit recently found a mammoth's tooth weighing 2½ lbs.

Remains of this ancestor of the elephant (known to scientists as elephants primigenius) have been found all over England, and the limb bones of one were dug up in London's Regent Street in 1921. But the mammoth seems to have flourished most of all in Siberia, where, since the first was revealed by the melting ice of the Alasega River in 1787, over 20,000 of the giants have come to light. Many were complete, with flesh, bones, skin, and long, red, woolly hair intact through having been frozen since their death many thousands of years ago—preserved in a natural refrigerator.

Although it is generally thought that the mammoth and his forerunner, the mastodon, were larger than the modern elephant, this is by no means true. The average height of a mammoth was about 9½ feet, whereas the African elephant may measure over 12 feet. But the mammoth had tusks 8 feet long, and these made him almost master of the world in his day.

Fossilised ivory was an important article of commerce last century, and in 1872 as many as 1630 mammoth tusks were imported into this country from Siberia.



ARMFULS OF WHEAT ON A KENTISH FARM



## STEPS TO RECOVERY

Here is a brief summary of the drastic measures the Government proposes to take to avert the threatened national disaster, because the American Loan has proved inadequate to bridge the full period needed for Britain's industrial recovery.

**COAL-MINERS** and workers in other essential industries must work extra hours. For the next six months the target for deep-mined coal is a weekly average of four million tons.

**THE** moving of coal by train to factories, power stations, blast furnaces, and so on, is to be speeded up, and this will involve a reduction in both passenger trains and goods trains carrying freight other than coal and raw material for essential industries.

**STEEL**, at present being produced at the rate of 12 million ingot tons a year, must, by the end of 1948, be produced at the rate of 14 millions tons a year.

**FOOD** grown in Britain must be increased by 1951-52 to one-fifth more than is grown at present. This means £100,000,000 worth more food a year must be produced by that time. To achieve this capital outlay is to be encouraged and there must be 100,000 more land workers.

**CUTS** of £12,000,000 a month are to be made in imports of food from the dollar countries. For certain foods more points will have to be given. There are to be restrictions on meals in restaurants and hotels.

**OUR** exports must be increased, by the end of next year, to 160 per cent of the volume exported in 1938.

## Making Friends Through Trade

**THE** political changes now taking place in the vast Eastern European area may alarm us, but we may perhaps take heart from the certain economic developments there.

Eastern Europe is a land of peasants, most of whose ancestors had too little land to till and could barely scrape through even in the best years. To them agricultural machinery was practically unknown, while industry was under-developed and thus could not absorb the surplus village population. Before the First World War many of these "unwanted" settled in the New World, and have thrived there. But after 1918 migration to America stopped almost entirely, with dire results to the peasants. Then came the war, which devastated Poland and Yugoslavia, Hungary, Rumania, and Greece. Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, however, escaped lightly.

There have recently been great changes in the social life of these peoples—the creation of small holdings, for example. But land reform alone cannot assure well-being. The peasant needs modern agricultural machinery and must know how to use it. This means new factories and, above all, education, and it will take at least a generation to raise the industrial and cultural life of these Eastern Europeans to the level of, say, Czechoslovakia, by far the most progressive of them all.

Many students of these countries hold that, despite the increased political influence wielded in these countries by the Communist Parties, linked with Soviet Russia, the spirit of independence of these countries

**WORKERS** in essential industries must not change into other industries, and the wartime practice of "directing" workers from non-essential into essential industries is to be started again.

**RELEASES** from the Navy, Army, and R.A.F. are to be speeded up to release more men for industry.

**FROM** October 1 the basic allowance of petrol for private motorists is to be reduced by one-third, and the supplementary allowance by one-tenth. Petrol for commercial vehicles is also to be reduced by one-tenth.

**THE** money sent abroad in payment for cinema films is to be limited to a quarter of any films earnings, the rest being kept as tax.

**THE** overseas travel allowance is to be reduced from £75 for 12 months to £35 for 14 months; and for a child to £20.

**IMPORTS** of timber are to be cut by £10,000,000.

**TO** prevent inflation there will be tighter Government control of the investment of capital, whether owned by private individuals or by public bodies. Also, workers must not at this time press for increases in wages, or changes in conditions of work, which may amount to the same thing.

**THE** Savings Movement is to be encouraged because it is a check to inflation.

has by no means been destroyed. It shows itself best in economic matters. Czechoslovakia has a larger trade with Britain and the U.S. than with her neighbours, including the U.S.S.R.; Poland has trade agreements with 12 of the 16 countries at the recent Paris talks.

In recent months, too, many of these countries have concluded long-term agreements for mutual economic help. Czechoslovakia, for example, is to equip Polish industry with machines, power stations, cranes, and so on: Poland is to send in return coal, zinc, and food. Czechoslovakia has also agreed to help Yugoslavia in removing war damages. In her turn, Yugoslavia has signed a treaty of mutual economic aid with her old foe, Bulgaria.

Further, the Slavonic countries still look forward to getting as much as possible of their equipment, machinery, and so on from Britain, France, and the U.S. This means, first of all, that they are prepared to pay for these goods with their own raw materials and food; and, secondly, that they wish to maintain and expand their trade on a Continental, and even world-wide, scale.

This is very important for us all. Politics apart, Britain and America still have a deep sympathy for the Eastern countries of Europe. Their economic collaboration with us will help to keep that friendship alive.

## A Castle For the People

**CARDIFF CASTLE**, with its extensive lands and gardens, has been generously presented by Lord Bute to the City of Cardiff for the use of the citizens. This fine old mansion is Norman in origin, and was probably built by Robert, Earl of Gloucester, the most powerful of the barons who opposed King Stephen.

The Romans had a large camp on the site on which Cardiff Castle now stands. It included a series of bastions, and ramparts over ten feet thick; also a magnificent north gateway which has been restored, and is one of the most imposing of its kind in Britain. The castle has a moat, 20 yards wide, round three sides of the building.

## MID-AIR ALARM

**A** KLM Constellation plane was placidly droning its way above the blue waters of mid-Atlantic the other day when a nine-year-old boy passenger suddenly looked down to find a five-foot snake sliding along beneath the seats of the aircraft. The plane was from New York, bound for Amsterdam by way of Prestwick in Scotland, and most of the other passengers were asleep.

Their sleep was rudely disturbed by the boy's call for help, and the plane chef ran out from his galley to see what was the matter. Taking in the situation at a glance, he seized a blanket, enveloped the snake in its folds, and carried it, writhing convulsively, to his galley, where he popped it into the ice-box. There it stayed till Amsterdam was reached.

The truant, one of two black South American snakes included among the plane's cargo, had escaped from its crate and, finding a space in the flooring, had wriggled its way up into the passengers' cabin.

## Heroes of Peace

**MR C. BUTCHER** of Sudbury, Suffolk, has been awarded the British Empire Medal for making three attempts to rescue his workmate from the engine-room of a floating gravel-pit pontoon which was on fire. Twice he had to jump into the water to put out his burning clothes before making another effort.

**FRANK STAMMERS**, a fisherman who won the British Empire Medal in the war, lost his life recently in going to the help of a shipmate who had been swept overboard from a Milford crawler fishing off the Pembroke coast.

## A NEW "BABY" PLANE

**THE** trend in aircraft design to-day seems to be towards larger and more powerful planes, but news comes from Belgium of the production of a new baby aeroplane.

It is the Topsy Junior, which weighs only 403 pounds. It may be bought with a choice of three engines, giving top speeds of 90 m.p.h., 108 m.p.h., and 125 m.p.h., respectively. It is also planned to make the plane in sections so that it may be delivered by road or rail, and assembled by the buyer in his own time.

## WORLD NEWS REEL

**SHARE-OUT.** The assets of the League of Nations have been allocated to States which were members when the League was dissolved. Those which are members of the United Nations will have their shares credited to them in the United Nations' books, others will receive their shares in cash. Britain's share is 10,657,665 Swiss francs.

The George Medal has been awarded to Cheung On, of Hong Kong, for rescuing from the sea nine people who had been badly burned by a fire in a ship. Cheung On swam to the end of the wharf nine times to rescue the victims.

The first woman governor of an Indian Province is Mrs Sarojini Naidu, the poet. She is to act as Governor of the United Provinces until Dr B. C. Roy, who has been visiting America, can take over. Mrs Naidu is a close friend of Mr Gandhi.

**CANADA'S TRADE.** Exports of goods from Canada during the first half of this year were one quarter more than in the same period last year, and three-and-a-half times more than in the first half of 1938.

Czechoslovakia is to double her imports of British books and periodicals.

## HOME NEWS REEL

**MANY HAPPY RETURNS.** Princess Margaret is 17 on August 21.

Alan Paterson, the young Scottish athlete, and William Vessie, an American, both jumped 6 feet 7½ inches at Glasgow recently and created a new British high-jump record.

The London Zoo has received from West Africa a snail seven inches long.

**MUSICAL BOXES.** Two violins made from meat boxes by German prisoners were among the articles on show at their camp handicraft exhibition at Brigg in Lincolnshire.

The choir of St Anne's Church, Turton, Lancashire, have paid for 200 hymn books to encourage the congregation to sing.

Herbert Asquith, poet and novelist son of the first Earl of Oxford and Asquith, has passed on at the age of 66. His last work was a book of war verse, *Youth in the Skies*.

**GREEN BELT.** The Minister of Works has stated that hedges are to be planted round London's royal parks in place of the former railings.

During May and June this year 1,123,810 people paid to go on Southend Pier. This was 170,431 more than in the same period last year.

## YOUTH NEWS REEL

**CADETS IN CAMP.** Of the 22,000 members of the Army Cadet Force in Eastern Command no fewer than 20,000 have been in camp this month. During a demonstration of Army beam radio at Shorncliffe camp one cadet was able to speak to his cousin at a camp in Colchester.

The Chief Scout has received a letter from Mr Strachey, the Food Minister, thanking Boy Scouts and Girl Guides for collecting seven million jam jars.

The Scout Gilt Cross has been awarded to Troop Leader Ernest

American farmers have been asked by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to sow 75 million acres of wheat in 1948. This is over four million acres more than was set as the target for 1947, which was actually exceeded.

**STARGAZERS.** Three school-girls have been appointed qualified observers at the New Plymouth Astronomical Society's Observatory, in New Zealand.

Froken Maria Brækker, a Norwegian author, aged 28, has won the 1947 Nobel Prize for literature for her story about the everyday life of the Holy Family—Mother Mary.

New Zealand is to follow Britain in replacing silver coinage with that of cupro-nickel.

**FEET FACTS.** Some 5600 New Zealand children are having their feet measured as part of official tests being made to help shoemakers.

Moscow's fourth and biggest underground railway is being built and will encircle the city.

**NEW FLAG.** The new Burmese flag is red with a blue canton bearing one big and five small white stars, a canton on a flag being the rectangular part next to the staff.

At Flixton, Suffolk, a cat has brought up two baby rabbits with her own kittens.

**PLAYING WITH FIRE.** The N.F.S. report that half the recent fires in Ipswich were caused by children playing with matches.

It has been suggested that a Music Centre should be established on a site at Cambridge Gate, Regent's Park. The suggestion has been made by the Gorell Committee, established in 1946 to consider the future of the terraces adjoining Regent's Park.

At Cockermouth in Cumberland 50 young people from Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Holland, and Switzerland have been camping with 50 British young people. The camp was arranged by the British Council and the Cumberland Education Department.

**SARK'S SHARKS.** At Sark in the Channel Islands, bathers and boaters were warned recently of the presence of basking sharks. These sharks, which grow to a length of 30 feet, are harmless unless attacked, when they are capable of smashing a boat with their tails.

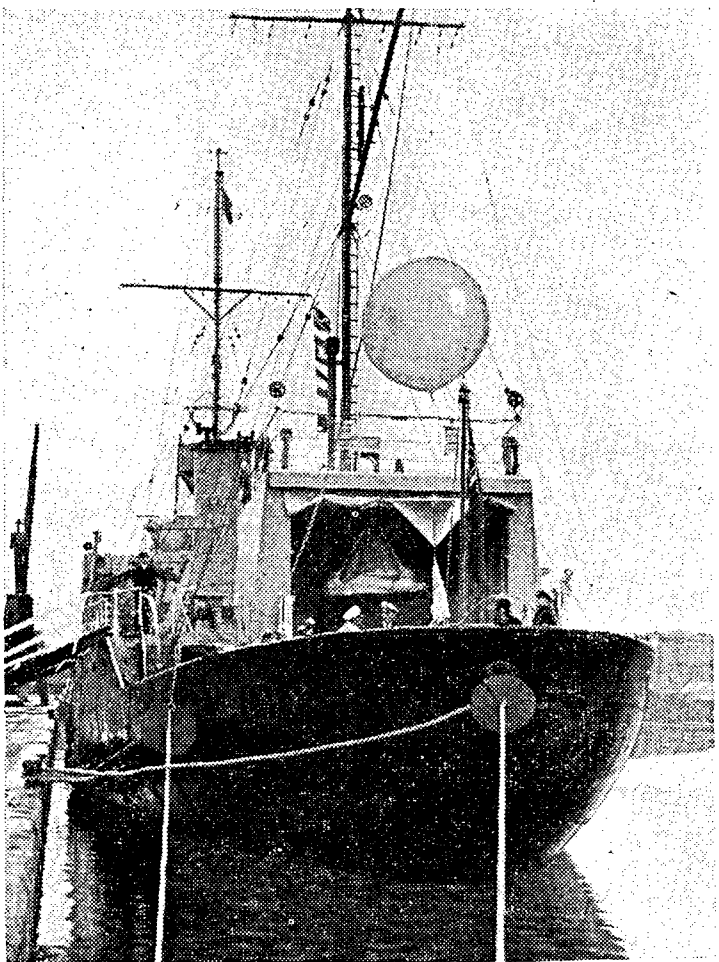
Sir Donald Coleman Bailey, who invented the Bailey Bridge which was so useful to our troops in the war, has been recommended for an award of £12,000 by the Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors.

Hedley, a King's Scout of the 2nd Waltham St Lawrence (Berks) Troop for his gallantry in saving a man from drowning in the River Thames.

**SCOUT EXPLORERS.** Twenty Senior Scouts will take part in an expedition to Newfoundland which leaves England on September 2 aboard the Nova Scotia. Owing to the delayed start of the expedition, which is organised by the Public Schools Exploration Society, the boys will return to this country by air.



## The Weather Men Go to Sea



The first new weather ship, showing its balloon station

THE good ship Weather Observer, formerly the corvette HMS Marguerite, has taken up station in the Atlantic some 300 miles west of Ireland.

She is the first of 13 floating observatories, operated by ten nations, which will be spaced out in the vastness of the northern Atlantic. Their job will be to note weather changes before they affect our coasts, and as our weather conditions largely originate far out in the Atlantic they should prove invaluable.

Previously the meteorological office relied upon ships making the course from Europe to America for information of this nature. Now they will have on-the-spot scientists and improved forecasts should result. In addition to the ships, aeroplanes have made long journeys into the North Atlantic daily. These flights will cease when the float-

ing weather stations come into action.

Each station will be served by two small ships of the corvette type, one ship relieving the other after a turn of 27 days on duty. Each will have seven weather-men and 13 radar and radio experts among its crew of about 50. The ships will be manned and equipped for a continuous programme of weather probing, including the exploration of the upper atmosphere by radio-sonde balloons and radar.

The United States will be responsible for seven of the stations. The others will be manned and equipped, some of them jointly, by Britain, Canada, France, Norway, Sweden, Holland, and Belgium.

These ships will also give valuable navigational help to trans-Atlantic planes and will, if necessary, join in rescue work.

## MUSICAL STEPHENS

ONE Sunday this summer in four different churches of a small town in Scotland four people all bearing the name of Stephen played the respective organs, three being regulars and one an ex-organist deputising for another.

## Dogs v Leopard

OWING to the intense cold which is spreading over the country, farmers at Paarl in Cape Province are becoming increasingly disturbed, for large leopards are coming from their fastnesses and killing stock.

One farmer, with his dogs, came upon a large leopard which was between two huge rocks. His dogs worried the animal from the front while the farmer heaved on the leopard's tail. The leopard could not turn round in the confined space, so, at last, the dogs killed the marauder.

## SEALS ON SOLANDER

SOME 30 miles north-west of Stewart Islands, at the extreme foot of New Zealand, is a small bare rock, one mile in length, towering perpendicularly to a peaked point 1150 feet above sea-level. It is the comparatively unknown island of Solander; and lately attention has been directed to it by expeditions setting out for whaling in the far southern Pacific.

Although uninhabited by humans it appears that Solander has a large seal population, for a trawler which visited the island recently reported that thousands of seals were to be seen there. From observation it appeared that they lived on crabs, as fish were scarce at the time.

In February 1770 Captain Cook sighted the island which he named after Dr Solander, the Swedish naturalist on the Endeavour. The Maori name for Solander Island is Hautere, meaning "swift wind."

## JET NEWS

IN Dayton, Ohio, two men have designed a jet-propelled bicycle. It has no gears, chain, or belt, but is powered by three tiny motors similar to the type used in miniature aircraft. Each engine weighs one pound.

Also from America comes news of a jet engine which can be run on a peroxide. The inventor intends to produce the engine for use in lorries and buses.

## Horsa & Sfora

IN presenting his first Educational Estimates for the year to Parliament recently Mr Tomlinson, the Minister, spoke of Horsa—nothing to do with Hengist, but the name of the operation for providing accommodation for the extra numbers in our schools owing to the raising of the school-leaving age. Horsa means: "Huts operation, raising school age." He said that by September 3440 huts will be needed and that work had started on 75 per cent of these.

Mr Tomlinson also spoke of Sfora—"School furniture operation, raising school age"—as indispensable a companion of Horsa as Hengist was of the original Saxon leader, for school huts are not much use without desks and blackboards. He said that all the furniture required would be ready by September.

He also drew attention to the remarkable increase in the number of children taking milk at school. In June 1946 it was 3,370,000, or 72 per cent, and in June 1947 it was 4,300,000, or 92 per cent.

The Minister gave £213,000,000 as the total sum which he expected the State and local authorities would spend on education this year.

## A SALUTE FROM THE PRINCESS

WHILE driving through the streets of Selkirk, Princess Elizabeth leaned out of her car and gave the Girl Guide salute in the direction of a second-storey window to which a mirror was fitted.

Inside the room was a delighted Girl Guide, Nellie Clapperton, confined to bed. The Princess had heard of her and had sent word that she would give her a special salute as she drove past. Amid all the cheering and other distractions, she did not forget.

## Leo Flies to the Doctor

ALMOST every day some Australian paper tells a dramatic story of the way Flying Doctors are saving lives in the lonely northern areas of the vast Commonwealth. A recent incident involved a 400-mile flight and an operation by torch and lamplight which saved the life of an aboriginal boy who had been critically injured at Hall's Creek, a lonely spot in Australia's North-west.

Five-year-old Leo had been hit on the back of the head by a heavy fly-wheel. A Flying Doctor was called by pedal radio and flew him to Derby for an operation. The Government Medical

Officer, Dr Herz, whose territory covers 82,000 square miles, happened to be in Derby. Minutes counted, so Dr Herz operated immediately with only a nurse to help him. He had to work with one hurricane lantern and several electric torches held by Blackfellows. As the operation proceeded the natives became so curious that they bent over the patient, getting into the doctor's way.

Aboriginals and white settlers alike have good reason to be thankful for the Flying Doctor service founded many years ago by the Revd John Flynn, a Presbyterian minister.

## New Links With Famous Missionaries

MR E. A. KERMODE, of Hermanus, Cape Province, and a son of one of the Rhodesian pioneers of 1890, was greatly astonished when he was in London not long ago to see in a bookshop some letters written by the famous missionary explorers, David Livingstone and Robert and Mary Moffat.

He immediately bought them, and he has now presented them to the Central African Archives, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

Robert Moffat started life as a gardener and went to South Africa in 1816. He and his devoted wife Mary carried out remarkable missionary work among the war-like Bechuanas.

## LIFE WELL LIVED

GIPSY SMITH, who has passed on at 87, was born in a gipsy tent. As a boy he led a Romany life, but, being eager to learn, taught himself to read and write.

He was the possessor of a fine voice, and this proved to be his talisman. When 17 Gipsy Smith attended a Salvation Army meeting in London, and General William Booth, who was presiding, asked him to sing. When the meeting was over the General invited his new vocalist to go out into the highways and byways and preach the Gospel. Gipsy began preaching the next day.

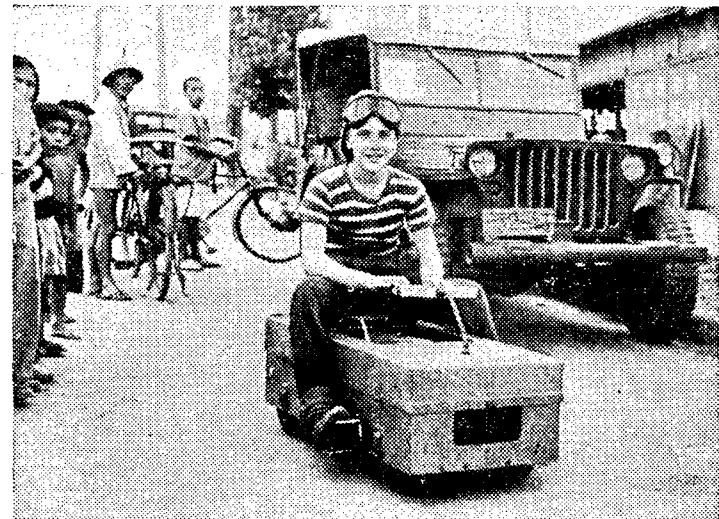
In the course of his long life this great-hearted man travelled the world in the cause of Christ.

Gipsy Smith's was a life well lived, and millions were the better for his influence and aid.

## TERRITORIAL PARATROOPS

TERRITORIALS, those keen patriots who train as soldiers in their spare time, have been learning to be parachute troops. They belong to the 16th Airborne Division, Territorial Army, and, recently, 200 of them were in camp at an R.A.F. parachute training school at Upper Heyford, in Oxfordshire.

The men first had some hardening physical training, then ground instruction in the art of parachute jumping, and, finally, they went up in captive balloons to make their first jumps from 800 feet.



## The Suitcase Car

A midget 1½ h.p. automobile invented by a Japanese is so small that it can be carried about like a suitcase. Here it is seen being driven by the son of an American Army officer.



August 23, 1947

The Children

## Punch, the Popular Puppet



A seaside audience is gripped by Punch's ancient play

ALL round our coasts and at holiday centres inland groups of children—and grown-ups, too—can be seen laughing heartily at the antics of Punch and Judy.

Yet only a short time ago Mr Punch was under a cloud. Middlesex Education Committee refused to allow educational funds to be used to provide Punch and Judy shows in the parks. Among objections put to the Committee was that Punch was a notorious wife-beater and therefore the show was improper entertainment for children.

Few people will quarrel with the Middlesex decision that Punch and Judy shows are not educational; but the fact that many generations of children have laughed delightedly at the antics of Mr Punch in the old, old story suggests that there are few who take his misdeeds at all seriously.

Punch is an old friend, indeed. Probably his name is derived from Punchinello or "young chicken," an Italian comic character, and he makes his first appearance in an Italian puppet show about 1600. It has been said that the origin of the character can be traced back to the Pontius Pilate of old morality plays, but this is unlikely to be true.

The fashion in puppet shows was passed from Italy to France by an Italian named Marion, from whom we get the word marionette. In 17th-century England

the Punch and Judy show became very popular, reaching its heyday in the reign of Queen Anne. People deserted the regular theatres and thronged to see the performances of the fascinating puppets. The grave Addison even saw fit to give a serious criticism of one of the performances in his famous magazine, *The Spectator*.

Since then the show has come to be regarded more and more as children's entertainment. Let us admit that Punch is the bad boy of the puppet family, that his antics are certainly not educational. But let us remember, too, that there are other and more respectable members of his large family.

In Britain their interests are largely cared for by the Educational Puppetry Association, which is holding an exhibition in London until the end of the month. The Association was formed in 1943 to foster interest in the application of puppetry to all types of education. At the exhibition may be seen photographs of puppets in many lands; demonstration models showing how to make a marionette, a glove puppet, and a shadow show; and examples of puppets made by schools.

The exhibition is open daily (except Sundays) from 10.30 to 4.30, with an extension to 6.30 on Wednesdays and Saturdays, at 23 Southampton Place, WC1. Admission is free.

## To Commemorate "The Few"

BATTLE of Britain House, the new Youth Centre at Ruislip, Middlesex, which is a memorial to the Battle of Britain pilots, was recently handed over to the Middlesex County Council, which has advanced about half the money for buying it and has agreed to maintain it. It is hoped to open the Youth Centre here by September at the very latest.

This fine house was formerly called Franklin House, and was originally built as a country residence for foreign ambassadors. It was in the possession of King's College, Cambridge, when the suggestion of buying it and turning it into a Youth Centre in memory of the heroic "Few" was made by Mr Leslie Hunt, an ex-RAF officer and an enthusiastic youth leader.

He interested Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park in the idea, who, with Air Marshal Sir James M. Robb and Lord Willoughby

de Broke, became patron of the appeal for funds. King's College reduced their price for the house by £2000 and gave £500 to the fund.

About half the price of the house has been raised by the appeal. Contributions have come from many quarters. Some young Australians sent stamps which were sold, Guides and Scouts have raised money by concerts and displays, several youth clubs have devoted the proceeds of dances to this most worthy fund.

It is hoped to raise the whole price of the house by appeals now being made in various parts of the Empire, and money received is being handed over to the Middlesex County Council who have so generously helped toward the early opening of Battle of Britain House. Donations can be sent to the Honorary Treasurer, Mr R. E. Pudney, Westminster Bank, Ruislip.

## HOMAGE AS OF YOKE

WHEN the King and Queen made their recent tour of the Scottish borders some ancient and picturesque customs were revived. At Oxenfoord Castle, for instance, and again at Innerleithen, the King was handed bouquets of roses by the lairds as tokens of loyalty, as has been done for centuries.

One of the most interesting of these old customs of homage is connected with the Houson-Craufurd family of Braehead, near Cramond Bridge. On one occasion James V who, like the famous Haroun-al-Raschid of Arabian Nights fame, was fond of roaming about his country in disguise, was attacked by robbers.

A certain John Houson came to his rescue and dressed his wounds. In gratitude the King granted him the lands of Braehead with the one condition that a ewer and a basin of rose-water be presented to him whenever he came that way. This custom has been maintained through the centuries by descendants of the family.

An even more curious observance is that of the Munro family of Foulis Castle. At any time of the year they may be required to give a snowball to the King. This might seem a very awkward obligation, but snow may usually be found lurking in the hollows of Ben Wyvis, which towers up behind Foulis Castle.

## Rhodesia's Plants

SOUTHERN Rhodesians have been taking stock of the botanical wealth of their great country, for their knowledge of it is still not complete. During last year many little-known areas of the country were explored and the various kinds of plants there carefully noted. Over 1800 different sorts of plant life were identified and many interesting and important specimens were brought to the Government herbarium at Salisbury.

## YESTERDAY & TODAY



### A Welsh Bard

Twentieth-century trousers peep from beneath Druidic robes at the Eisteddfod, national bardic festival of Wales, which traditionally had its origin before the Roman invasion of Britain. This year's celebration took place at Colwyn Bay recently.

## The Editor's Table

### BRITAIN'S BATTLE

BRITAIN came out of the war stripped of her vital strength as a trading nation. She has spent millions in helping other afflicted nations. She has had to borrow heavily in order to maintain the national standard of living, and her export trade is not mounting rapidly enough to meet all the requirements of the people.

That is a simple statement of the causes of the crisis which now confronts Britain. But the remedy is not so simple. There is another Battle of Britain to be won; but in the Prime Minister's moving words, "this battle cannot be won by the few. It demands a united effort of the whole nation."

THE crisis has produced a fresh challenge to the stamina and courage of all who live in these islands. We face a period of new restrictions in our way of life, and for a time it is necessary for us again to accustom ourselves to new rigours of shortage and of control.

But no leader has ever called in vain on the British people to endure hardship in a good cause, and the call this time is to see that the British way of life endures—that British way of life in which Mr Attlee has avowed his profound belief, as in "our combination of order and liberty, in our respect for justice and for moral values."

ON all these has our nation grown and flourished, and the struggle now is for the survival of these oldest and deepest factors in Britain's life no less than for the standard of living. But we again proclaim our belief in Britain's future, for no Briton worth his salt lacks confidence in the service yet to be rendered to mankind by the people of these islands. As the Prime Minister proclaimed, "We are a proud nation with a great history of achievement through the centuries. We have made a unique contribution to the world, and that contribution is not yet ended."

Britain now has again to wage a grim battle, but only the most faint-hearted could contemplate defeat. The Government's chief task is, as Mr Attlee has said, "to get into the hearts of all our people the sense of urgency, so that they may do whatever tasks fall to them and may endure what hardships have come to them, with a consciousness of the great issue at stake."

WITH that accomplished, we can be confident of victory, for then, whatever weapons be forged to wage the battle, they will be matched by that same spirit of resolute courage and unity which brought Britain safely through the mortal perils of the war.

## A World Parliament

A WORLD Parliament still seems to most of us an ideal that will not be achieved for many a long year. For all that, the C.N. rejoices that earnest people of several countries are meeting in Switzerland to discuss plans for achieving world government, plans that even specify a date—1955.

These plans have been prepared by the Parliamentary Committee of the Crusade for World Government, of which the Revd Gordon Lang, M.P., is the chairman and Mr Henry Osborne, M.P., the general secretary.

The intention is to prepare, by 1950, lists of candidates in Britain and other countries from whom the electors will be invited to choose one national representative for every 1,000,000 people. That having been done, the representative would meet and prepare a charter for world government.

But, until this or some other practicable system of world government by elected representatives of the peoples of the world is an accomplished fact, Uno must remain the world's sheet anchor, and it must actively be supported by all men of good will.

## Beware of Berries

EXPERTS say that only ten of

Britain's many varieties of wild berries can safely be eaten—in moderation, of course. Five of these are red, and five are black. The red ones are wild strawberries, cloudberries (like red blackberries, but without thorns), red bilberries or wortleberries, wild raspberries, and haws (the fruit of the hawthorn). The black varieties that can safely be eaten are blackberries, dewberries (similar to blackberries, but the plants do not climb), black bilberries or wortleberries, sloes, and elderberries.

If you are in any doubt, beware of berries. Safety first!

## Under the E



PETER PUCK  
WANTS TO KNOW

If current accounts  
are kept in river  
banks

A BATHING pool superintendent says his staff is always ready to oblige patrons. Falls in with them.

A NEW actor took his audience by storm. And heard a clap of thunder.

SOME towns wish passengers would not eat fish and chips on the buses. It is not the proper fare.

A MUSIC teacher goes about looking for talent. Always has a puff in her eye.



## The Sapling

A CANADIAN artist, Henry Eveleigh of Montreal, won the prize for a United Nations



poster-of-the-year competition with this design of a sapling being planted, the leaves representing the flags of all the United Nations.

## CONSCIENCE

LONDON: Transport Board has received five shillings conscience money from an anonymous boy who broke an electric bulb while fighting with another boy.

His conscience must have been working very well to prompt him to pay so much for one bulb, though he may have included the estimated cost of a man's time in replacing the broken lamp. Or perhaps he was the victor in an unjust quarrel, and felt that he must impose a fine upon himself for wrongly provoking a peaceable companion.

Whatever the reason, his conscience is clear.

## FREEDOM'S GIFT

THIS Liberty alone that gives the flower  
Of fleeting life its lustre and perfume;  
And we are weeds without it.

Couper

## Editor's Table

FATHERS get backache making sand-pies for their children. On holiday bent.

□

HEDGEHOG is good to eat. But you can't get it without points.

□

NEW hats for ladies are worn off the face, says a fashion writer. Otherwise the ladies would not see where they were going.

□

SOME small boys do not like being held by the hand. They don't mind being held by a story.



A FOREIGNER thinks that wild birds in England are remarkably tame. They often make the farmers wild.

## THINGS SAID

BRITAIN and the British people are the great hope of everybody in Europe who has democracy at heart.

*The Burgomaster of Hamburg*

I ADVISE parents to "ration" radio listening because many children are having their health spoilt by staying up late listening to their favourite programmes.

*Headmaster of a Thornton Heath school*

I CONFIDENTLY believe . . . that we shall come through our troubles and continue in future generations to be a guide and a symbol to the world in which a free, decent life may be lived by the citizens of an ancient land.

*Winston Churchill*

STEEL is worth £4 a ton to export, but £300 a ton when fabricated into a motor-car.

*Sir Miles Thomas*

TRANSPORT is the conveyor-belt of industry.

*The Prime Minister*

## Speeding the Juggernaut

THE Road Haulage Association has asked the Minister of Transport to allow the speed limit of certain kinds of commercial vehicles to be increased from 20 m p h to 30 m p h, even if the vehicle is drawing a trailer.

Commenting on this, The Pedestrians' Association points out that rather more than half of the child victims of road accidents are killed by commercial vehicles. A section of the drivers of these vehicles has asked the Association to assist them in opposing this application for faster driving. Mr E. Cant, representing these drivers, has stated that the heaviest of commercial vehicles for which the increased speed is desired weigh, when laden, 22 tons.

"Brakes have been designed to bring these vehicles weighing 22 tons to a stop in a reasonable distance at a maximum speed of 20 m p h," declares Mr Cant. "Imagine the results if one of these monsters is travelling at 30 m p h when a little child runs into the roadway." He maintains that if this new speed limit of 30 m p h is allowed, the drivers' schedules for their journeys will be speeded up accordingly, and to complete their journeys in the required time, allowing for driving slowly through towns and uphill, drivers will have to exceed 40 m p h in places.

Before this increase in speed becomes law, it must be agreed to by Parliament. It seems there are good reasons why that agreement should not be given. To increase the speed of these juggernauts would indeed be a queer way to "Keep death off the roads."

## JUST AN IDEA

When you face a difficulty never let it stare you out of countenance.

## THE BRONZE DOORS

ST PETER'S, Rome, the biggest church in the world, is to have two new bronze doors at its main entrance, to replace the old wooden ones.

A world-wide competition for designs for these new doors for St Peter's has been announced, and this recalls a remarkable precedent, for the bronze doors of the Baptistery in Florence, perhaps the most famous bronze doors in the world, were fashioned by Ghiberti after he had won a competition arranged by the "governors of the Baptistery" to find the most worthy sculptor for the work.

Lorenzo Ghiberti, it is said, spent the best part of thirty years on these doors, with their wonderful panels of Scriptural scenes on which the sun has been shining for five centuries and more; and it is not surprising that Michael Angelo, passing through his native Florence one day, came up to the Baptistery and declared these doors fit to be the Gates of Heaven.

## Friends



Befriended when only a fledgling by little Miss Pat Laurie, of St Ives, Hunts, this rook will fly down from the trees at her call, and feed readily while perched on her arm.

## More Realistic Films

ANOTHER means of throwing cinematograph pictures on the screen in relief has been perfected, after many years of patient experiment, by an English photographer, Mr T. Maxwell-Harvey. The remarkable claim made for it is that, if the pictures are viewed with one eye only, they still appear in stereoscopic relief. Cinema experts who have seen it demonstrated agree that the result is amazing.

How the effect is obtained is by exposing successive pictures in the cine-camera from different viewpoints, and, as these are thrown on the screen at the ordinary rate and with an ordinary projector, they appear as stereoscopic. Although the positive picture is projected in the usual way, a special camera is needed in which the lens is mounted on a "floating base" and is moved in position slightly by an electric motor for each successive exposure.

By combining such a system with the stereophonic motion pictures, which make the voices of each actor or artist appear to come from his or her exact position in the set, and adding natural colour, a new era of almost perfect facsimile should be at hand.

## Summer Speeding on the Atlantic

By a CN Travelling Correspondent

THIS is the season of high speed in the North Atlantic liner lanes, where both our famous "Queens"—Mary and Elizabeth—are now powerfully and continuously at work in the service of the island whose supreme craftsmen built them.

A week or two ago the Queen Elizabeth broke her own west-bound record by some two and a half hours, sailing between Bishop Rock and Ambrose Lightship (outside New York Harbour) in 4 days, 5 hours, 50 minutes.

It was in August nine years ago that the Queen Mary gained the eastbound record, sailing the same course in reverse in 3 days, 20 hours, 42 minutes, at an average speed of 31.69 knots, the speed, not the time, constituting the "record."

## A Thrilling Voyage

It was, however, in the last days of July 1929 that the German Bremen, on her maiden voyage, broke all records. She thereby outstripped a British liner. No voyage, indeed, was more thrilling—and more sad—than a crossing in the old Mauretania just at this time.

Excitement had grown throughout the summer. Rumours that the "Maury" was tackling the record kept the Germans, whose Bremen and Europa were not quite ready, in suspense. Imagine the thrill as we in the Mauretania passed the Bremen in mid-Channel one summer night, when the German ship was being "run in." Was she going to surprise the world? And what had the Mauretania up her sleeve?

A week or two later the worst happened. We were steaming westward at "easy full-speed," in ideal weather—smooth seas, light winds, clear air, high glass. A ship might cross the Atlantic many a year, said our captain, "Sandy" McNeil, without meeting such a perfect period.

Half-way over, news flashed through that the Bremen had left Cherbourg. But what could we do? We had no orders to go for record. We could only steam on at "easy full" with the German closing in hour by hour on our stern.

A few days later, when we had docked, I received a magnificently-decorated card inviting

me to inspect the now triumphant Bremen as she lay at her pier in Brooklyn. I went round with "Sandy." I watched him grip the German commander's hand in congratulation. I heard a girl reporter ask him the cruel question, "Why do you think your ship lost the record?" and saw his wry smile as he answered, "I guess the old lady's smoked too many cigarettes." (And that was how the Ocean Greyhound became the Grand Old Lady.)

Captains are so proud of their ships. I treasure a scrap of paper on which are written the words Mauretania Resurgat. The message takes me back to another, earlier August—1924—when the 17-year-old Mauretania, making her first voyage as an oil-burner, broke the two-way record, and drove a startled world into the great Atlantic race.

Mauretania Resurgat were the words Captain Rostron wrote out for me to send across the Atlantic by wireless, as we reached Ambrose in the then amazing time of 5 days, 3 hours, 21 minutes.

Today there is no international competition for the so-called Blue Riband. The "Queens" are supreme. The famous trophy, presented by a former MP, is no more in the news.

You may hear of high speeds during the next few weeks. But do not look for startling new records. Certainly we must keep the flag flying—and the "Queens" are good dollar-earners—but, as you have recently heard, we must also save fuel!

## HELICOPTER MAIL

WITH the arrival of the Royal Family at Balmoral, the first helicopter mail service in Britain has started. Planes of the King's Flight of the Royal Air Force carry Court and official mail every morning from Heathrow Aerodrome to Aberdeen. From there the helicopter carries the mail over the purple-heathered hills and drops quietly down among the lovely woods of Balmoral.



THIS ENGLAND

The royal castle by the Thames at Windsor



## A Festival of Music

RARELY do these islands provide such a feast of entertainment as the International Festival of Music and Drama at Edinburgh, from August 24 to September 13.

Some of the world's most celebrated musicians will be appearing at the Festival. Bruno Walter will conduct the famous Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra in the Usher Hall, and pays a tribute to British music by opening his programme with the Fantasia on a Theme of Tallis by Vaughan Williams.

### Famous Orchestras

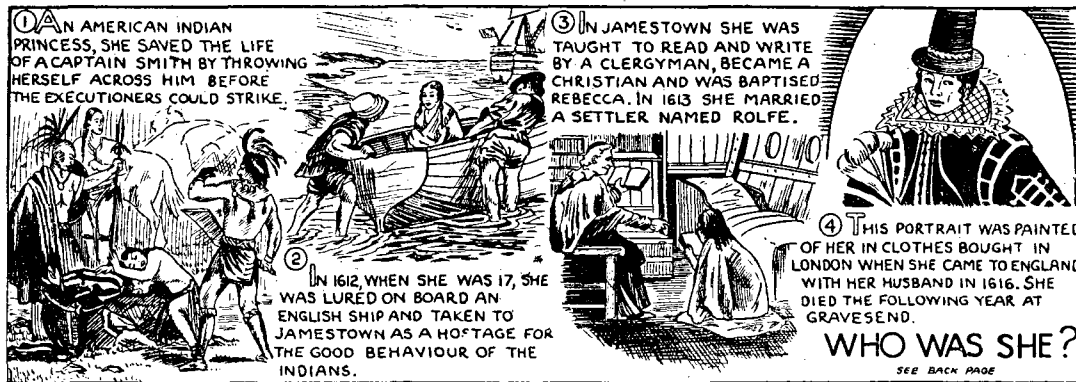
The Hallé Orchestra under John Barbirolli will play Elgar's Second Symphony and Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique. Other orchestras appearing at the Usher Hall are the Liverpool, under Sir Malcolm Sargent, with Schnabel as soloist; the Scottish Orchestra, with its new conductor, Walter Susskind, and the BBC Scottish Orchestra, conducted by Ian Whyte.

To add a spice of local colour the pipes will be skirling and the tartans fluttering in the streets of Edinburgh when the World's Championship Pipe Band Contest is staged in September. The really big noise of the Festival, however, will be the biggest drum in the world, specially designed for the Glyndebourne Opera Company when it plays Verdi's Macbeth.

At the Empire Theatre the Sadler's Wells Ballet will produce Tchaikovsky's The Sleeping Beauty. The Old Vic Company will perform Shakespeare's Richard II, and in addition Louis Jouvet is bringing his famous company from Paris and will produce two of Molière's works.

Such is the feast of first-class entertainment awaiting the thousands of visitors attending the Edinburgh Festival. Moreover, it is a feast of which wireless listeners can partake, for over 45 broadcasts are being made to Europe.

## WHO WAS SHE? \* Picture Story of a Red Indian Princess



## TOWARDS SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE SUDAN

PROPOSALS to give the varied peoples of the Sudan a larger share in the government of their country have been approved by the Governor-General of the Sudan, Sir Robert Howe.

This vast territory of desert, swamp, and jungle, to which the heroic General Gordon sacrificed his life and where Lord Kitchener fought a brilliant campaign against a desert tyrant—a campaign in which our Mr Churchill took part as a young man and about which he wrote a fascinating book called The

River War—this land of the White and Blue Niles has made great advancement during 49 years of British rule.

The Sudanese may be roughly divided into two sections, those of the north, who are Moslems and have long had an Arabic type of civilisation, and those of the wild swamps and jungles of the south, who are still mostly pagan and of whom many are still very primitive. Education, however, has been going ahead in the south, where, among its other educational activities, the Government has established a teachers' training school, which draws its pupils from six main tribes, each with its own language, history, and customs.

It is now proposed to set up a Legislative Assembly for the country as a whole. Previously there was an Advisory Council for the northern Sudan, set up in 1944 with the intention of turning it into a Legislative Council if it should prove a success. It has proved a great success and these new proposals have resulted.

According to the new proposals there would be a Legislative Assembly for the whole Sudan in which the majority of the members would be elected by the people. From this Assembly members would be appointed to

serve on an Executive Council of 12. Before this political advance can take place, however, it must receive the approval of the British and Egyptian Governments, which are jointly responsible for the country.

The new proposals illustrate Britain's determination to educate her Colonial peoples for self-government—and reinforce, we might add, Sir Alexander Cadogan's denial of the accusations about the Sudan recently made against us by the Egyptian Government to the Security Council of Uno.

## Intercom in the Shop

IF you one day walk into the shop of Mr George Sordrey, an electrical engineer of Paddington, and a voice, coming from no visible speaker, asks your requirements, do not be alarmed; for Mr Sordrey has installed a two-way intercom-transmitter leading to his cellar workshop. He is warned by a buzzer if a customer enters, and he need not leave his bench to ask the caller his business. The caller can reply to him through a microphone, and should he, for example, ask for an article which is out of stock, Mr Sordrey can tell him so without interrupting his work.

## The Other Hampton Court

Now on view at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, are some of the new exhibits the museum has acquired during 1946 and 1947. Among these a well-preserved settee, carved in the year 1690, reminds us of England's other Hampton Court, for it has come from Hampton Court in Herefordshire.

This fine old battlemented house, built around a courtyard, stands in the very heart of Herefordshire, close to the little village of Hope-under-Dinmore, which is about four miles south of Leominster. The mansion is in a deer park through which the river Lugg wanders dreamily.

### Yeoman of the Robes

The building of the mansion is believed to have been begun in the reign of King Henry IV by his favourite Yeoman of the Robes, Sir Rowland Lenthall. This dashing knight fought at Agincourt, and it is thought he obtained the money to build this house of splendour from the ransoms paid for the prisoners he captured there.

About 1510 the Coningsby family bought the house. One of this family, Sir Thomas Coningsby, the son of Queen Elizabeth's gentleman-treasurer, was a friend of Sir Philip Sidney and went to Italy with him in 1573. This Coningsby founded in Hereford a hospital for old soldiers and servants called "Coningsby's Company of Old Servitors."

His great-grandson, another Thomas, was a staunch supporter of William of Orange and one of the rooms at Hampton Court is said to be in the same condition as when that king stayed there. Another treasure, long preserved in an ebony case, was the handkerchief with which this Thomas Coningsby bound up the wound which William of Orange received at the Battle of the Boyne.

## MR MIDSHIPMAN EASY—Captain Marryat's Great Story of the Sea, Told in Pictures

Jack Easy was a lad who lived in the early days of the 19th century. His father had taught him the notion that all men are equal. Finding no equality on the land, Jack decided to go to sea, thinking he was sure to find it there.

He became a midshipman in H M S Harpy, whose captain, Wilson, owed his command to the generous help of Jack's father. For Mr Easy had lent him the money to pay his debts and fit himself out. So Captain

Wilson was very lenient with Jack. The new midshipman became popular with the sailors, who called him "Equality Jack." He particularly won the devotion of a negro cook, named Mesty, who waited on the midshipmen.



Off the Mediterranean coast of Spain, the Harpy's boats put off on a calm night to capture an expected enemy convoy. Jack was in charge of one boat, Mesty going with him. The convoy scattered when attacked. Jack's party captured a small vessel, and Mesty persuaded him to ignore the Harpy's recall signal and sail to take a bigger ship to win more "prize money."



They captured an anchored Spanish ship, a fine vessel, while its crew slept. They bound and gagged the sleeping men and put them into the smaller ship. At daybreak Jack found there were passengers aboard, three Spanish ladies and two gentlemen. He allowed them to go with their possessions into the little vessel, and then sailed on, commanding the Nostra Señora del Carmen!



Jack's little party knew he had done wrong in disobeying Captain Wilson's recall signal. They were a rough lot and they decided to have things their own way. When the Carmen reached some uninhabited islets they declared they were going ashore to rest. Jack and Mesty, they said, were to remain in the ship and take care of it.



There was no stopping them. They took barrels of wine with them. "Supposin' they get mad with drink?" said Mesty, "and one man say: 'Let's go 'board and kill officer and then we do as we please.' When they sleep," Mesty continued, "let us go in little boat and take their cutter. They can't swim back. Look at dese sharks!"

How is "Equality Jack" to deal with the mutineers? See next week's instalment



The Children's Newspaper, August 23, 1947

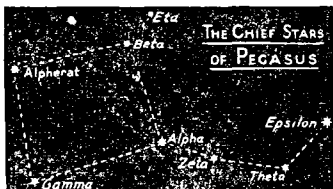
## Giants of the Winged Horse

By the C.N. Astronomer

A VERY interesting group of constellations now appearing in the south-east sky in the evening are curiously linked by famous stories of mythology.

One of the chief and oldest of these is Pegasus, the Flying Horse that with its immense wings flew over the sea, and figured so much in ancient mythology. Chaldean and Vedic legends suggest at least a 5000-year-old antiquity.

Our star-map (which is on a relatively very small scale) will show, when the stars are identified, how immense is this celestial Winged Horse. Its most obvious configuration is what is known as the Great Square of Pegasus, which at present appears somewhat diamond-shaped through being tilted. A star appears at each corner of approximately equal brightness, but only three of these belong to Pegasus, Alpharet being in Andromeda.



The chief star in Pegasus is Alpha, also known as Markab; it is a sun that radiates about 67 times more light than our Sun but from a distance 5,886,000 times greater, so its light takes about 93 years to reach us; we therefore see it as it was that long time ago.

Beta in Pegasus, also known as Scheat, belongs to the Giant class of stars, and is one of the wonders of the sky. It has a diameter 170 times greater than our Sun. This is the average, for Beta pulsates and its diameter varies considerably, its whirling masses of lurid and highly rarefied gases, all radiant with a heat of between 3000 and 4000 degrees centigrade, alternately expanding and then contracting to the extent of many millions of miles. Beta's reddish hue is perceptible, and, since interferometer measurements indicate that Beta has an average diameter of 147 million miles, its surface area must be 29,000 times greater than that of our Sun. But Beta is 13,040,000 times farther away than our Sun, its light taking 204 years to reach us.

Gamma in Pegasus, also known by the Arabic name of Algenib, which means Wing, is another giant sun but of a very different type to Beta. It radiates 750 times more light than our Sun, but it takes 362 years to reach us, Gamma being 22,900,000 times farther away.

The bright star Epsilon in Pegasus is also known as Enif, which in Arabic means the Nose, for it is at the Nose of the Flying Horse. It is yet another immense sun radiating about 230 times more light than our Sun, this light taking about 170 years to reach us.

Eta in Pegasus, which represents a foreleg of this Flying Horse, has also an Arabic name, Matar. It is at a distance of 136 light-years, or about 8,600,000 times farther than our Sun, and radiates about 87 times more light.

G. F. M.

## THE MAN WHO STARTED THE ENGINE

As we speed along in our holiday express we should remember the French doctor's son Denis Papin, who, though 300 years have passed since he was born, started the steam engine on its way.

Born at Blois on August 22, 1647, Denis took his medical degree in Paris, but gave up doctoring and sought out Christian Huyghens, the great Dutch inventor, and assisted him in experiments with his air-pump.

It was the control of steam, not air, however, that led Papin to invent the safety-valve which served what was perhaps the most freakish of his inventions, his Digestor.

### Supper For Scientists

A Protestant refugee, Papin brought this from Paris to London, where the famous inventor, Robert Boyle, introduced him to the Royal Society, whose members, Newton and Flamsteed among them, were not without an intelligent curiosity in seeing the Digestor cook their supper.

John Evelyn in his Diary describes how by the Digestor "the hardest bones, beefe itself, and mutton, were made as soft as cheese, without water or other liquor, and with less than 8 ounces of coales, producing an incredible quantity of gravy, and for close of all a jelly made of the bones of beef, the best for clearness and relish, and the most delicious that I had ever seen or tasted."

Papin secured the Digestor's intensity of heat by preventing the steam from escaping, and so, as superheated steam, raising the temperature well above boiling point. His experiments soon taught him, however, the dangerous expansive properties

of steam, and to prevent his Digestor from bursting he designed his safety valve. It was a small plate, or cylinder, fitting into an opening in the cover of the boiler, and kept shut by a lever, loaded with a weight, that slid along a steelyard. The pressure of the weight upon the valve could thus be regulated as the lever slid along, and if the upward pressure of the steam became excessive, the valve was forced up and the steam escaped.

But though Papin's ingenuity had invented the safety valve for his boiler he never seemed to realise that it could be employed on an engine in which he used steam to procure an up-and-down motion of his piston, and so to set a pump going.

### Handing on the Torch

But the engine was extremely crude, and it had to wait for obscure Thomas Newcomen's genius to show how best to join piston to pump, and to hand on the torch through Trevithick and others till it reached George Stephenson, and the world's railways then began.

But Papin's work was done. His is the honour due to the pioneer who lit the torch by his safety valve, and that honour was his sole reward. He left England in a blaze of fame: he returned twenty years later and there were only ashes. Without resources or friends, in 1712, Denis Papin died, as inventors may, in poverty.

## Rosella and the Kauri

AN immigrant bird in New Zealand is likely to become unpopular with scientists. It is the rosella parakeet, which is accused of eating seeds of the giant kauri pine.

The oldest kauri trees may be a thousand years old. Young kauris grow from seeds packed in cones just like the cones on other pine trees; and New Zealand scientists are trying to save as many little kauris as possible, for so much good kauri forest was destroyed by earlier generations of New Zealanders.

Now comes the discovery that rosella parakeets, new arrivals from Australia, have escaped

from captivity and are increasing in the wooded hills near Auckland. The rosellas have discovered that kauri seeds are good to eat; and the result may be that few little kauris will grow up to be forest giants.

Early next year when the kauris shed their cones the scientists will keep watch to see what the little rosellas are up to. These green and red birds will have to be on their best behaviour!



## ST BENET'S LIVES AGAIN

AN interesting service was held recently in the ruins of St Benet's Abbey, which stand near a rush-fringed river of the Norfolk Broads. The Bishop of Norwich—who also holds the ancient and unique title of Abbot of St Benedict—sailed down the River Bure, wearing his gold and white cope, and preached to about 1000 people, many of whom were holiday-makers who had moored their boats to the river bank.

The story of St Benet's is one of strife in days long gone by. A monastery was built here in Saxon times, but the Danes destroyed it in 870. Later,

another Danish conqueror—King Canute himself—built the Abbey of St Benet on the ruins. When William the Conqueror came the monks stoutly resisted his forces. The story is that the abbey was at last betrayed to the Normans by a monk on condition that he should be made abbot. The Normans made him abbot—and then hanged him.

At the Dissolution St Benet's Abbey and its properties were given to the Bishop of Norwich and the abbey became a ruin. The service the other day was probably the first held there by an Abbot of St Benet's for 400 years.



Good News Children!

Here's  
**LINGFO-FIZZ**  
POWDER

Add water—that's all,  
and get the most  
delicious FIZZY drink!

This is just the weather for enjoying LINGFO-FIZZ... so fizzy, so cool, so refreshing! Just stir it in water, and watch it FIZZ-Z-Z and sparkle! The very thing for camp, for picnics, or garden parties... a scrumptious hot weather drink! You'll love its lovely taste, whether you prefer lemon or strawberry flavour. Get it at the grocer's, or your sweet shop.

Two Varieties:  
**LEMON STRAWBERRY**



JOSEPH LINGFORD & SON, LTD.  
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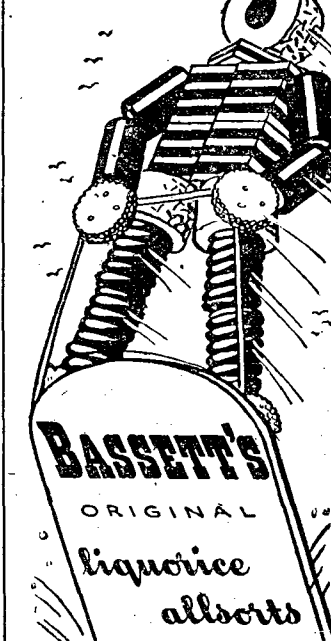
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